

**REMARKS**

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 19-36 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Osamu MIZUNO et al.

By   
Jeffrey R. Filipek  
Registration No. 41,471  
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
July 31, 2006